

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498  
Serial No. 09/942,886  
Office Action dated: May 3, 2005  
Reponse dated: May 16, 2005

PATENT  
PU010164

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2-3, 7, 13-16, and 19 are amended by this response. Claims 1, and 9-12 are canceled by this response.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-12 and 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has either amended or canceled the claims noted by the Examiner to overcome the Examiner's rejections, therefore Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-6, and 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations formerly included in claim 3 and base claim 1. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 3 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the Examiner's allowance of claim 3.

Claims 1 and 9-12 have been canceled by this amendment, therefore prior rejections with respect to these claims are now moot.

Claim 2 has been amended to now depend upon and include all of the limitations of claim 3. Since claim 3 is now considered allowable, claim 2 is also now believed to be allowable based upon its dependency therefrom, in addition to any additional subject matter included in claim 2 itself. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6 are dependent upon and include all of the limitations of allowable claim 3. Since claim 3 is now considered allowable, claims 4-6 are also now believed to be allowable based upon its dependency therefrom, in addition to any additional subject matter included in claims 4-6. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to now depend upon and include all of the limitations of claim 3. Claim 8 is dependent upon claim 7 and includes each of the limitations of claims 3 and 7. Since claim 3 is now considered allowable, claims 7-8 are also now believed to be allowable based upon their dependency therefrom, in addition to any additional subject matter included. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

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Claims 13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,754,271 to Gordon. Claims 13 and 16 have been amended to include limitations similar to those included in claim 3 (previously indicated as allowable), and therefore claims 13 and 16 are now also believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 14-15 are dependent upon and include all of the limitations of claim 13. Since claim 13 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, claims 14-15 are also now believed to be allowable based upon their dependency therefrom, in addition to any additional subject matter included in claims 14-15. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 17-21 are dependent upon and include all of the limitations of claim 16. Since claim 16 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, claims 17-21 are also now believed to be allowable based upon their dependency therefrom, in addition to any additional subject matter included in claims 17-21. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Having fully addressed the Examiners' rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

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No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to  
Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL ANTHONY PUGEL

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Thomson Licensing Inc.  
Patent Operations  
P.O. Box 5312  
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

By: 

Guy H. Eriksen, Attorney  
Reg. No. 41,736  
Tel. No. (609) 734-6807

May 16, 2005

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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States  
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Patricia M. Fedorowycz